

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

BRUCE TOERING, individually and on
behalf of all those similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

EAN HOLDINGS, LLC,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C15-2016-JCC

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's motion for final approval of the proposed class settlement (the "Settlement") (Dkt. No. 69). The Court has considered all papers filed and proceedings in this matter and is fully informed regarding the facts surrounding the proposed Settlement. Based upon this information, the Court approves the proposed Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court hereby enters this Class Action Settlement Order and Final Judgment ("Final Judgment"), which constitutes a final adjudication on the merits of all claims of the Settlement Class.

On March 22, 2017, the Court granted preliminary approval to the proposed Settlement between Plaintiff and Defendant EAN Holdings, LLC (EAN). The proposed Settlement resolves all of the Settlement Class's claims against EAN in exchange for EAN's agreement to provide

1 certain monetary and non-monetary relief to Settlement Class Members as set forth in the
2 Agreement, (Dkt. No. 65-1 at 1–14). On August 1, 2017, the Court held a Settlement Hearing to
3 consider whether to grant final approval to the Settlement and to consider Class Counsel’s
4 application for an award of attorney fees and costs (“Fee Application”), (Dkt. No. 64 at 13–14),
5 and a Service Award to Plaintiff. The Court heard argument from counsel and allowed others to
6 appear to voice their support for, or objection to, the Settlement, the Fee Application, or both.

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8 Having read, reviewed, and considered the papers filed in support of and any in
9 opposition to final approval of the Settlement, including supporting declarations; oral arguments
10 of counsel and presentations by any Settlement Class Members who appeared at the hearing;
11 Class Counsel’s Fee Application; the Agreement; and the pleadings, the Court finds and
12 concludes as follows:

13 1. **Definitions.** The definitions and provisions of the Settlement Agreement and
14 Release of Claims (the “Agreement”) are fully incorporated into this Final Judgment.

15 2. **Jurisdiction.** The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Agreement
16 with respect to and over all parties to the Agreement, including Plaintiff and all Settlement Class
17 Members.
18

19 3. **Settlement Approval.** The Court hereby grants final approval to the Settlement
20 and finds the Settlement is, in all respects, fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interests
21 of the Settlement Class. The Court finds the Settlement is within the authority of the Parties and
22 the result of extensive arm’s length negotiations.
23

24 4. **Exclusion from Settlement Class.** Certain members of the Class have timely
25 requested to be excluded from the Class and the Settlement. Exhibit B, attached to the
26 Declaration of Caroline Barazesh (Dkt. No. 70-2), lists the Class Members who timely requested

1 exclusion. Accordingly, this Final Judgment shall not bind or affect the individuals listed on
2 Exhibit B to the Barazesh Declaration (Dkt. No. 70-2).

3 5. **Objections.** No objections have been brought to the Court's attention.

4 6. **No Admission.** Neither this Final Judgment nor the Agreement is an admission or
5 concession by EAN of the validity of any claims or of any liability or wrongdoing or of any
6 violation of law. This Final Judgment and the Agreement do not constitute a concession and shall
7 not be used as an admission or indication of any wrongdoing, fault, or omission by EAN or any
8 other person in connection with any transaction, event, or occurrence, and neither this Final
9 Judgment nor the Agreement nor any related documents in this proceeding, nor any reports or
10 accounts thereof, shall be offered or received in evidence in any civil, criminal, or administrative
11 action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to consummate or enforce
12 this Final Judgment, the Agreement, and all releases given thereunder, or to establish the
13 affirmative defenses of res judicata or collateral estoppel barring the pursuit of claims released in
14 the Agreement.
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16 7. **Dismissal with Prejudice.** The Court hereby dismisses with prejudice all claims
17 of members of the Settlement Class against EAN and other released parties as described in the
18 Agreement.
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20 8. **Release.** Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members release for himself and as
21 the representative of the Settlement Class, and on behalf of each Settlement Class Member and
22 each of their respective agents, successors, heirs, assigns, and any other person who can claim by
23 or through them in any manner, fully, finally, and forever irrevocably release, relinquish, and
24 forever discharge with prejudice all Released Claims against the Released Parties.
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1 9. ***Injunction Against Asserting Released Claims.*** Plaintiff, all Settlement Class
2 Members, and any person or entity allegedly acting on behalf of Settlement Class Members,
3 either directly, representatively, or in any other capacity, are permanently enjoined from
4 commencing or prosecuting against those released via the Agreement any action or proceeding in
5 any court or tribunal asserting any claim released against, provided, however, that this injunction
6 shall not apply to individual claims of any Settlement Class Members listed in Exhibit B to the
7 Barazesh Declaration, (Dkt. No. 70-2), who timely requested exclusion from the Settlement
8 Class. This injunction is necessary to protect and effectuate the Settlement, this Order, and the
9 Court's flexibility and authority to effectuate the Settlement and to enter judgment when
10 appropriate, and is ordered in aid of the Court's jurisdiction and to protect its judgments pursuant
11 to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a).
12

13 10. ***General Release Acknowledgement.*** By operation of this Final Judgment, the
14 Plaintiff and EAN expressly waive, and each Settlement Class Member is deemed to have
15 waived, any and all claims, rights, or benefits they may have under California Civil Code § 1542
16 and any similar federal or state law, right, rule, or legal principle that may apply. California Civil
17 Code § 1542 provides as follows:
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19 A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does
20 not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of
21 executing the release, which if known by him or her must have
22 materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

23 11. ***Class Notice.*** The Settlement Administrator completed the delivery of Class
24 Notice according to the terms of the Agreement. The Class Notice given by the Settlement
25 Administrator to the Settlement Class, which set forth the principal terms of the Agreement and
26 other matters, was the best practicable notice under the circumstances. The Class Notice program
prescribed by the Agreement was reasonable and provided due and adequate notice of these

1 proceedings and of the matters set forth therein, including the terms of the Agreement, to all
2 parties entitled to such notice. The Class Notice given to the Settlement Class Members satisfied
3 the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the requirements of constitutional
4 due process. The Class Notice was reasonably calculated under the circumstances to apprise
5 Settlement Class Members of the pendency of this Action, all material elements of the
6 Settlement, and their opportunity to exclude themselves from, object to, or comment on the
7 Settlement and appear at the Settlement Hearing. The Court has afforded a full opportunity to all
8 Settlement Class Members to be heard. Accordingly, the Court determines that all members of
9 the Settlement Class, except those who timely excluded themselves from the Class, are bound by
10 this Final Judgment.
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12 12. ***Notifications to Appropriate Federal and State Officials.*** Within ten (10) days
13 after the filing of the proposed Agreement in this Court, the Settlement Administrator served a
14 notice of the proposed Settlement upon the appropriate state official of each State in which a
15 Class member resides and upon the Attorney General of the United States. The Court finds that
16 the notice satisfied the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b) and that more than ninety (90) days
17 have elapsed since the required notice was provided, as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1715(d).
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19 13. ***Continuing Jurisdiction.*** Without affecting the finality of this Final Judgment,
20 the Court retains continuing jurisdiction over (a) implementation of the Agreement, distribution
21 of the Settlement payments, Service Award, and attorney fees and costs contemplated by the
22 Agreement, and processing of the claims permitted by the Agreement, until each and every act
23 agreed to be performed pursuant to the Agreement has been performed, and (b) all parties to this
24 Action and members of the Settlement Class for the purpose of enforcing and administering the
25 Agreement.
26

1 14. ***Service Award.*** As an incentive payment in compensation for the time, effort, and
2 risk he undertook as representative of the Settlement Class, the Court hereby awards \$5,000 to
3 Bruce Toering.

4 15. ***Class Counsel Fee and Cost Award.*** The Court hereby awards attorney fees and
5 costs to compensate Class Counsel for their time incurred and costs advanced. The Court has
6 concluded that: (a) Class Counsel achieved a favorable result for the Class by obtaining
7 Defendants' agreement to make available to Settlement Class Members certain monetary and
8 non-monetary relief; (b) Class Counsel devoted substantial effort to pre-and post-filing
9 investigation, legal analysis, and litigation; (c) Class Counsel prosecuted the claims of the Class
10 on a contingent-fee basis, investing significant time and accumulating costs with no guarantee
11 that they would receive compensation for their services or recover their costs; (d) Class Counsel
12 employed their knowledge of and experience with class action litigation in achieving a valuable
13 settlement for the Class, in spite of EAN's possible legal defenses and their experienced and
14 capable counsel; (e) Class Counsel have standard contingent fee agreements with Representative
15 Plaintiff; who has reviewed the Agreement and been informed of Class Counsel's attorney fees
16 and cost application and has approved; (f) the Class Notice informed Settlement Class Members
17 of Class Counsel's fee and cost request under the Agreement; and (g) Class Counsel filed and
18 posted their Fee Application in time for Settlement Class Members to make a meaningful
19 decision whether to object to the Fee Application. For these reasons, the Court hereby approves
20 Class Counsel's attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$95,000. These fees and costs are in
21 lieu of statutory fees and costs that either the Representative Plaintiff or the Settlement Class
22 might otherwise have been entitled to recover.
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1 16. **Payment Timing.** EAN shall pay the fee and cost award to Class Counsel and the
2 Service Award to Representative Plaintiff, as well as amounts due to eligible Settlement Class
3 Members, in accordance with and at the times prescribed by the Agreement.
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5 DATED this 1st day of August, 2017.
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10 John C. Coughenour
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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